

Appl. No. 10/013,078
Arndt, dated April 30, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 1, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4 (cancelled)

5. (previously presented): A method of detecting misappropriation of goods in a self-checkout lane in a store, the self-checkout lane having an incoming goods path and a goods collection zone, and goods being passed, in service, from the incoming goods path into the goods collection zone; the incoming goods path including a product scanner electrically coupled to a processor, and the goods collection zone including a weighing scale electrically coupled to the processor, the method being performed by a processor and comprising the steps:

- (a) receiving input from the product scanner identifying goods introduced into the incoming goods path;
- (b) controlling one or more barriers at least partially surrounding the goods collection zone so as to restrict customer access to goods collecting in the goods collection zone;
- (c) calculating, by referring to a database of product weights, a total weight value representative of the total weight of the goods introduced into the incoming goods path;
- (d) once all the goods being checked out by a particular customer have passed onto the weighing scale, weighing the goods collectively at the goods collection zone by the weighing scale and producing a total weight signal for all the goods;
- (e) receiving from the weighing scale the total weight signal; and

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- (f) comparing the total weight value of the goods introduced into the incoming goods path with the total weight of the goods collected at the goods collection zone and calculating a discrepancy between said weights; and
- (g) if the calculated discrepancy exceeds a predetermined value, inhibiting conclusion of a transaction for purchase of goods introduced into the incoming goods path and collected in the goods collection zone and continuing to control the one or more barriers at least partially surrounding the goods collection zone so as to restrict access until the discrepancy is resolved and the transaction is concluded.

6. (previously presented): The method of detecting misappropriation of goods as claimed in claim 5 further comprising:

notifying store personnel if the calculated discrepancy is greater than the predetermined value.

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 5 further comprising:
operating an alarm if the calculated discrepancy is greater than the predetermined value.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein the weighing scale is positioned beneath the goods collection zone.

10. (previously presented): The method of claim 9 wherein the goods collection zone further includes a conveyor.

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 9 wherein the weighing scale is shaped and sized so as to substantially fill the goods collection zone.

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12. (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein the step of calculating a total weight value by referring to a record of product weights further comprises:
weighing loose grocery items in the incoming goods path.

13. (previously presented): The method of claim 5 further comprising:
automatically retracting the one or more barriers at least partially surrounding the goods collection zone when the calculated discrepancy is less than the predetermined value and payment for the collected goods has been made.

14-22. (canceled)

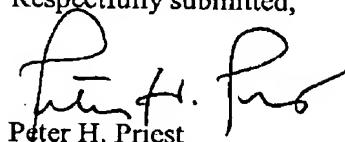
23. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein if the calculated discrepancy is less than the predetermined value, the transaction for purchase of goods introduced into the incoming goods path is concluded; and the method further comprises controlling the one or more barriers to allow customer access to the goods collection zone to bag the goods.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
operating a diverter to direct goods of a second customer to a second goods collection zone.

25. (canceled)

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Respectfully submitted,



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